

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SEOUL 02715 040657Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 /101 W

-----096896 042159Z /63

R 040630Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 260

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 2715

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, KS, AS

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS KOREA TO JOIN AUSTRALIA GROUP AT IBRD AND IMF

SUMMARY: KOREAN PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT KOREA WILL JOIN THE AUSTRALIAN GROUP AT BOTH THE IBRD AND THE IMF. AN AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT KOREA HAS BEEN ASKED TO JOIN THE AUSTRALIAN GROUPS AND THAT KOREA HAS SIGNED THAT IT WOULD ACCEPT. NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MOVE HAS BEEN MADE OR IS IMMINENT. KOREA WOULD GAIN ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITIONS IN BOTH BODIES AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISERS SLOTS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 29 A KOREA TIMES ARTICLE STATED THAT KOREA WOULD SWITCH FROM ITS PRESENT SOUTHEAST ASIA MEMBERSHIP GROUP IN BOTH THE IBRD AND THE IMF AND JOIN THE "AUSTRALIAN" GROUP IN THOSE BODIES. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, KOREA WAS TO ANNOUNCE THE MOVE AT A MEETING OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA GROUP SCHEDULED TO OPEN AT SUVA, FIJI, MARCH 28. THE TIMES CITED GREATER AVAILABILITY OF LOANS AS THE REASON FOR KOREA'S MOVE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SEOUL 02715 040657Z

2. AN AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL HAS TOLD US THAT THE AUSTRALIANS, FACED WITH A DIMINISHED POSITION IN THE BANK AND THE FUND, HAVE INVITED KOREA TO JOIN ITS GROUP TO ENHANCE ITS POSITION. AMONG THE INDUCEMENTS OFFERED BY THE AUSTRALIANS ARE AN ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP IN BOTH GROUPS. (NEW ZEALAND ACTUALLY ACTS AS AED IN THE FUND.) ALSO, THE KOREANS WOULD BE GIVEN ADDI-

TIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISERS SLOTS.

3. THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE KOREANS HAD INDICATED ON AN INFORMAL BASIS THEIR WILLINGNESS TO JOIN THE AUSTRALIAN GROUP. HE ALSO SAID THAT AUSTRALIA HAS ADVISED THE MEMBERS OF ITS GROUP OF THE PROPOSAL AND KOREA HAS IMILARLY TOLD ITS GROUP MEMBERS. BUT NO FORMAL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED AND NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MOVE IS ANTICIPATED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WAS SURPRISED BY THE PRESS ARTICLE ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIALS. THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, WHICH IS NEGOTIATING THE PROPOSAL FOR THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT, WAS ALSO CAUGHT SHORT BY THE STORY AND BLAMED THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR THE LEAK.

5. THE AUSTRALIAN OFFICIAL ALSO SAID THAT IT WAS BELIEVED THE SOUTHEAST ASIA GROUP WAS SEEKING TO INDUCE THE PHILIPPINES TO MOVE FROM ITS PRESENT GROUP INTO THE SOUTHEAST ASIA GROUP, SO AS TO MAINTAIN ITS RELATIVE POSITION. HE WAS NOT AWARE WHETHER THE PHILIPPINES HAD MADE A DECISION.

SNEIDER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL02715
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780145-1051
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780494/aaaadcgv.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fc1f7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3080327
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORTS KOREA TO JOIN AUSTRALIA GROUP AT IBRD AND IMF SUMMARY: KOREAN PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT KOREA WILL JOIN THE AUSTRALIAN GROUP AT BOTH THE IBRD AND THE IMF. AN
TAGS: EFIN, KS, AS, IBRD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fc1f7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014